

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Rec'd PCT/PTO 15 DEC 2004

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Applicant's or agent's file reference 2002B094	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/US 03/16944	International filing date (day/month/year) 30.05.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 05.07.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC C08K3/34			
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS, INC.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24.12.2003	Date of completion of this report 11.10.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Siemens, T Telephone No. +31 70 340-3642



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US 03/16944

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-36 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-72 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US 03/16944

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	20,21,46,47,71,72
	No: Claims	1-19,22-45,48-70
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-72
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-72
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: DE-A-19842845

1. Novelty

D1 discloses a nanocomposite (see col. 25, lines 55-58, claim 35) comprising clay and a functionalized olefin elastomer.

The document furthermore discloses processes for the preparation of the composite as well as the use thereof in air barrier applications (see col. 26, lines 1-8).

Therefore D1 destroys the novelty of claims 1-19, 22-45 and 48-70.

2. Inventive step

Although not specifically mentioning products like tire innerliners and innertubes as well as their production processes, a skilled man would certainly apply the composition of D1 for this use, since the use of the same compositions as the presently claimed ones is disclosed for uses requiring high gas barrier properties (see col. 3, lines 33-35 of D1). This application is identical to the desired application of the present compositions (see page 2, lines 26-27 of the present description).

Hence claims 20,21,46,47,71 and 72 lack an inventive step.